

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer system, comprising:
 - a processor coupled to data processing system components;
 - first memory including protected memory space having protected system
 - 5 functionality components stored therein and unprotected memory space having
 - a custom system functionality component stored therein; and
 - second memory accessible by the processor and coupled to said first memory;
 - wherein said protected system functionality components and said custom system
 - functionality component are loadable into said second memory from said first
 - 10 memory.
2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein said protected system functionality components and said custom system functionality components are comprised by system management software.
3. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said custom system functionality component is
- 15 stored in place of a corresponding default system functionality component of said system management software.
4. The computer system of claim 1 wherein said first memory is non-volatile memory.
5. The computer system of claim 4 wherein said non-volatile memory is flash memory.
6. The computer system of claim 5 wherein:

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the processor is a service processor; and
said second memory is service processor main memory.

7. The computer system of claim 1 wherein:

5 said protected system functionality components are exclusively configurable by a
 original equipment manufacturer of the system; and
 said custom system functionality component is configurable by any entity,
 including the original equipment manufacturer of the system.

8. The computer system of claim 7 wherein:

10 said protected system functionality components and said custom system
 functionality component are comprised by system management software;
 said first memory is flash memory; and
 said second memory is service processor main memory.

9. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:

15 a component creation utility configured for facilitating creation and loading of
 said custom system functionality component.

10. A method for facilitating customization of an embedded system, comprising:

storing a custom system functionality component in unprotected memory space of first memory;

loading protected system functionality components and said custom system functionality component into second memory from said first memory in response to activating a service processor coupled to said second memory; and performing service processor functionality in accordance with at least a portion of said protected system functionality components and said custom system functionality component.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein storing said custom system functionality component includes overwriting a default system functionality component with said custom system functionality component.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein:

said protected system functionality components are stored in a compressed format in protected memory space of said first memory;

said custom system functionality component is stored in a compressed format in said unprotected memory space of said first memory; and

loading said protected system functionality components and said custom system functionality component into said second memory includes uncompressing said protected system functionality components and said custom system functionality component.

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13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

facilitating creation of said custom system functionality component.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein:

5 facilitating creation of said custom system functionality components includes identifying a
 collection of default system functionality components; and
 each one of said default system functionality components is replaceable with a corresponding
 customized system functionality component.

10 15. The method of claim 14 wherein storing said custom system functionality component
 includes overwriting a corresponding one of said default system functionality components
 with said custom system functionality component.

16. A computer system, comprising:

at least one data processing device;

instructions processable by said at least one data processing device; and

5 an apparatus from which said instructions are accessible by said at least one data processing device;

wherein said instructions are configured for enabling said at least one data processing device to facilitate:

10 storing a custom system functionality component in unprotected memory space of first memory;

loading protected system functionality components and said custom system functionality component into second memory from said first memory in response to activating a service processor coupled to said second memory; and

15 performing service processor functionality in accordance with at least a portion of said protected system functionality components and said custom system functionality component.

17. The computer system of claim 16 wherein storing said custom system functionality component includes overwriting a default system functionality component with said custom system functionality component.

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18. The computer system of claim 16 wherein:

said protected system functionality components are stored in a compressed format in protected memory space of said first memory;

said custom system functionality component is stored in a compressed format in

25 said unprotected memory space of said first memory; and

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loading said protected system functionality components and said custom system functionality component into said second memory includes uncompressing said protected system functionality components and said custom system functionality component.

5 19. The computer system of claim 16, further comprising:
 facilitating creation of said custom system functionality component.

 20. The computer system of claim 19 wherein:
 facilitating creation of said custom system functionality components includes identifying a
 collection of default system functionality components; and
10 each one of said default system functionality components is replaceable with a corresponding
 customized system functionality component.

 21. The computer system of claim 20 wherein storing said custom system functionality
 component includes overwriting a corresponding one of said default system functionality
 components with said custom system functionality component.

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